

I believe it is inappropriate to eliminate the Morse code requirement altogether from amateur radio licenses.

Amateur Radio derives much of the justification for its existence from its history of public service. CW (A1A-morse code) communication is by its very nature, the essence of simplicity. Complete transceivers can be constructed that are the size of a pack of cigarettes, and morse communications can survive atmospheric conditions that render other modes useless. Were this invaluable skill to be lost among amateurs, a significant decrease in the potential value of amateur radio during emergencies would surely result.

I recommend that the morse requirement be eliminated for Technician and general classes of licensees for HF privileges, but that it be retained at 10 (ten) words per minute for the extra class license. Extra class licensees are considered to be experts in the radio art, and as such should be required to demonstrate this minimum competence in morse code. HF privileges could be expanded for Tech's and Generals, but some band space reserved, as it is now, but moreso, for Extra's alone, as an incentive to maintain skill at morse code.